

QUALITATIVE COMPONENT: CRITERION III – RESEARCH, INNOVATIONS AND EXTENSION

3.3 INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

3.3.1 Institution has created an eco system for innovations, creation and transfer of knowledge supported by dedicated centers for research, entrepreneurship, community orientation, Incubation etc.

With the formulation of the strategic plan, to promote and strengthen research, multiple initiatives were taken to create an ecosystem for encouraging innovations, enhancing infrastructure and disseminating information (Refer Mindmap uploaded). Some of the innovative initiatives undertaken are:

1. Develop World class infrastructural support for research:

The college has strengthened its research infrastructure by obtaining funds to create conducive research environment and promote research works on the campus. Specialised research labs and Central research lab was established.

a. **Specialized Research labs:** such as Geographical information services Lab (GIS), Photogrammetry Lab, Human Genetic Research lab, Analytical Lab and Plant Physiology lab are available. Post Accreditation, three new research facilities were introduced. Central research Lab, Plant tissue culture lab and Environmental lab.

b. **Central Research Lab(CRL):** CRL was established in 2018, to strengthen and upgrade available science research facilities to advanced research & training to enable researchers to take up challenging research projects. It harbors high-end research instruments viz Gel Doc, Tissue culture facilities etc. This was funded through RUSA and DBT star college scheme.

2. Institutional Innovation Cell (IIC): To systematically foster the culture of Innovation among the students, IIC was established. IIC conducts competitions and workshops to encourage startups by students. Students are encouraged to participate in Hackathons/Club Activities.

3. DBT STAR College Scheme: Conscious efforts were made to obtain funds for infrastructure development, encourage innovation and promote scientific temper. The college was awarded DBT star college scheme in 2017 (Rs. 123 lakhs), the only college in Goa to get this grant. Under this scheme, innovative programmes were

organized such as App based projects, science concept exhibitions, seminars and workshops for faculty, staff, students and community.

4. Research Discussion Forum (RDF): RDF was established in 2016, to encourage interdisciplinary research. Researchers were encouraged to present their research and area of expertise to faculty with aim of identifying potential collaborators for drafting interdisciplinary research project proposals. 04 interdisciplinary projects were granted funds.

5. Industry-academic linkages: The college has initiated linkages with institutions and companies, for industry-academia research activities and internships. After autonomy, more than 15 MoUs and 105 linkages were initiated with state/national/international institutions.

6. Extension and Consultancy works: The institution encourages consultancy services which contribute to the society. College has a consultancy policy framed to serve as guideline for execution and revenue sharing. Consultancy services are offered in the department of Geography, Zoology, Computer science, Geology, Counseling centre and Studio. Various extensions works engaging government institutions, civil society and community organizations were undertaken (Refer mindmap for details).

7. Research Awards: College Management has instituted Research award - 'Best Teacher Excellence in Research and consultancy' for faculty members with highest 03year cumulative API score in research, since 2010. This is for appreciating the contribution made by researchers and also to promote quality research.

8. Community activities: Besides the NSS unit, departmental outreach activities were promoted. This benefited the less privileged and marginalized section of society. It also brought awareness on health issues and contributed in improving the quality of education in the neighboring schools/colleges.
